IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (New): An information input method comprising:

irradiating an object with light;

picking up at an emission time, picking up at a non-emission time, and picking up a visible light image;

generating a timing signal comprised of a pulse signal or a modulation signal for controlling an intensity of light of a light emitter;

generating a control signal for individually controlling light-receiving timings of light-receiving cells of an area image sensor on the basis of the timing signal from a timing signal generator;

detecting a difference in accumulated electrical charges between a cell of first cells and a corresponding cell of second cells;

passing only light emitted by said light emitter;

intercepting light emitted by said light emitter; and

selecting one of pass filter and cut filter upon passing light to be sensed.

Claim 23 (New): An information input method, comprising:

irradiating an object with light;

picking up at an emission time, picking up at a non-emission time, and picking up a visible light image;

generating a timing signal comprised of a pulse signal or a modulation signal for controlling an intensity of light of a light emitter;

generating a control signal for individually controlling light-receiving timings of

light-receiving cells of an area image sensor on the basis of the timing signal from a timing

signal generator;

detecting a difference in accumulated electrical charges between a cell of first cells

and a corresponding cell of second cells;

passing only light emitted by said light emitter;

intercepting light emitted by said light emitter; and

selecting one of pass filter and cut filter in synchronism with the timing signal from

said timing signal generator.

Claim 24 (New): An information input method, comprising:

irradiating an object with light;

picking up at an emission time, and picking up at a non-emission time;

generating a timing signal comprised of a pulse signal or a modulation signal for

controlling an intensity of light of a light emitter;

generating a control signal for individually controlling light-receiving timings of

light-receiving cells of an area image sensor on the basis of the timing signal from a timing

signal generator;

detecting a difference in accumulated electrical charges between a cell of first cells

and a corresponding cell of second cells;

picking up a visible light image;

splitting light into the object reflected light and the light other than the object reflected

light;

selecting whether the light is to be passed or intercepted on optical paths of the split

light beams; and

synthesizing the two light beams split by a light splitting section.

Claim 25 (New): An information input method, comprising:

irradiating an object with light;

picking up at an emission time and picking up at a non-emission time;

generating a timing signal comprised of a pulse signal or a modulation signal for controlling an intensity of light of a light emitter;

generating a control signal for individually controlling light-receiving timings of light-receiving cells of an area image sensor on the basis of the timing signal from a timing signal generator;

detecting a difference in accumulated electrical charges between a cell of first cells and a corresponding cell of second cells;

picking up a visible light image;

splitting light into the object reflected light and the light other than the object reflected light;

selecting one of a state wherein only a light source wavelength is passed and a state wherein only visible light is passed;

selecting whether the light is to be passed or intercepted on optical paths of split light beams; and

synthesizing the two light beams split by a light splitting section.

Claim 26 (New): An information input method, comprising:

irradiating an object with light;

picking up at an emission time and picking up at a non-emission time;

generating a timing signal comprised of a pulse signal or a modulation signal for controlling an intensity of light of a light emitter;

generating a control signal for individually controlling light-receiving timings of light-receiving cells of an area image sensor on the basis of the timing signal from a timing signal generator;

detecting a difference in accumulated electrical charges between a cell of first cells and a corresponding cell of second cells;

picking up a visible light image;

splitting light into the object reflected light and the light other than the object reflected light;

selecting one of a state wherein only a light source wavelength is passed and a state wherein all light components are passed;

selecting one of a state wherein only visible light is passed and a state wherein all light components are passed;

selecting whether the light is to be passed or intercepted on optical paths of the split light beams; and

synthesizing the two light beams split by a light splitting section.

Claim 27 (New): An information input method, comprising:

irradiating an object with light;

picking up at an emission time and picking up at a non-emission time; generating a timing signal comprised of a pulse signal or a modulation signal for controlling an intensity of light of a light emitter;

generating a control signal for individually controlling light-receiving timings of light-receiving cells of an area image sensor on the basis of the timing signal from a timing signal generator;

detecting a difference in accumulated electrical charges between a cell of first cells and a corresponding cell of second cells; and

picking up a visible light image.